

REMARKS

This is to acknowledge the phone message of March 15, 2006 from Examiner Novosad in response to Applicants' attorney's phone message.

The Examiner indicated her agreement that deletion of the phrase "of greater ... ring portion" in claims 62 and 63 would cure the grounds for rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. The present amendment makes that deletion. In claim 63, the ring portion is now expressly limited to a diameter of at least 5 cm (two inches), similar to the limitation of claim 43. Applicants submit that no claim as now submitted is indefinite in view of the considerations expressed in MPEP 2173.05(b).

Further, in her phone message, the Examiner confirmed the presence of dependent claim 64 in the application, its mention having been inadvertently omitted in the office action of February 2, 2006.

By this amendment, as suggested in the Office Action, claims 60 and 61, objected to by the Examiner, have been cancelled, and claims of like scope have been added, those numbered 65 and 66.

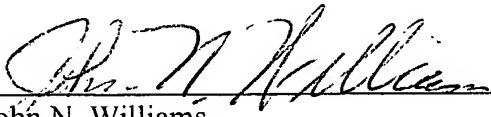
The Examiner's comments concerning Ingemann '231 are acknowledged. Attention is drawn to page 17, the last paragraph of the response filed on December 30, 2005. Though "231" is not mentioned, the distinction of proposed claims over Ingemann '231 is discussed there. The discussion at the interview of November 7, 2005 was of like import.

All claims are now submitted to be allowable and early favorable action is solicited.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing attorney docket number listed above.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 7, 2006

  
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